



For Immediate Release

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Senator Gregg: Partisan Budget Puts Economy on Dangerous Path

Senator Judd Gregg, ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, today reacted to the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution conference report, filed today by the Democratic members of the conference committee.

“This is a partisan budget crafted behind closed doors, and it puts our economy on a dangerous and unstable path,” said Senator Gregg. “It includes, at a minimum, a \$736 billion tax hike on American families and businesses over the next five years – the largest in U.S. history – which will jeopardize the tremendous economic success we’ve enjoyed since fair, pro-growth tax policies were put in place in 2001 and 2003.

“In fact, this budget builds in a number of roadblocks to extending even the most basic tax relief for hard-working American families – such as the marriage penalty relief and the child tax credit,” he said. “The House trigger mechanism and a watered-down version of Pay-go are new hurdles that will delay any consideration of tax relief that has done so much to expand the economy.”

Senator Gregg was one of four Senate and House Republicans appointed to the FY 2008 budget resolution conference committee, but all four were excluded from all substantive meetings of the committee. Senator Gregg did not sign the conference report, which was made available to Republican conferees just this morning.

“This budget contains billions in new spending on Washington programs - \$205 billion over the President’s request over five years – and does absolutely nothing to address the \$69 trillion long-term entitlement crisis we are facing,” said Senator Gregg. “The so-called reconciliation instructions in this budget, which represent only a small fraction of total spending, are a poorly-disguised excuse to hijack savings meant for deficit reduction and spend them on the expansion of mandatory programs.

“I cannot support this budget, which will dramatically increase spending and return to an era of big government, passing the bill along to taxpayers and increasing the debt by \$2.5 trillion,” he said. “This budget spends 100% of the Social Security surplus in every year but 2012, and does not include any of the Social Security protection enforcement mechanism contained in the Senate-passed version.

“A more fiscally responsible approach would be to restrain spending, reduce the deficit, extend a strong economy through a fair tax system, and begin to focus on how best to address our unfunded obligations. American taxpayers, now and down the road, deserve a government they can afford.”